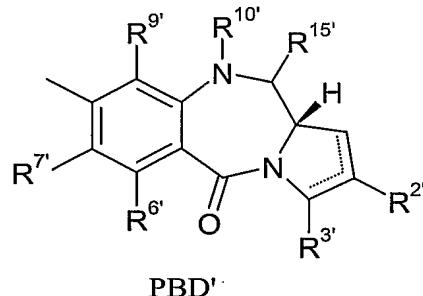
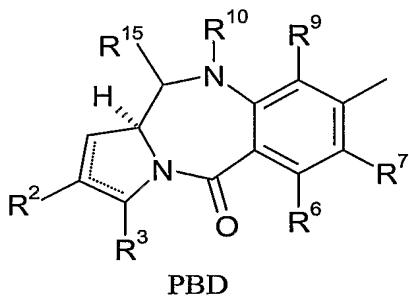


CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I) :

5 PBD-A-Y-X-(Het)_{na}-L-(Het)_{nb}-L-(Het)_{nc}-T-(Het')_{nd}-L-(Het')_{ne}-L-(Het')_{nf}-X'-Y'-A'-PBD'
(I)

and salts, solvates, chemically protected forms, and prodrugs thereof, wherein



10 with the bonds at the 8 position on each molecule bond to the A and A' groups respectively.

the dotted lines indicate the optional presence of a double bond between C1 and C2 or C2 and C3;

15 R² and R³ are independently selected from -H, -OH, =O, =CH₂, -CN, -R, OR, halo, =CH-R, O-SO₂-R, CO₂R and COR;

R⁶, R⁷ and R⁹ are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, SH, SR, NH₂, NHR, NRR', nitro, Me₃Sn and halo; where R and R' are independently selected from optionally substituted C₁₋₇ alkyl, C₃₋₂₀ heterocyclyl and C₅₋₂₀ aryl groups; or

20 R⁶ and R⁷ together form a group -O-(CH₂)_p-O-, where p is 1 or 2;

R¹⁰ is a nitrogen protecting group and R¹⁵ is either O-R¹¹, where

R¹¹ is a hydroxyl protecting group; or

R¹⁵ is OH, =O or =S; or

R¹⁰ and R¹⁵ together form a double bond between C10 and N11;

25 A is selected from O, S, NH or a single bond;

Y is a divalent group such that HY = R, or a single bond;

X and X' are both either NH or C(=O);

each Het and Het' is independently an amino-heteroarylene-carbonyl group;

30 each L is independently selected from β-alanine, glycine, 4-aminobutanoic acid and a single bond;

T is a divalent linker group of the form:

-NH-Q-NH- or -C(=O)-Q-C(=O)-

wherein Q is a divalent group such that HQ = R;

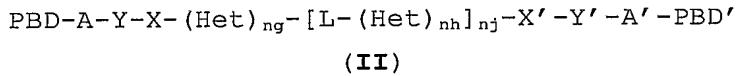
A', Y', Het', R^{2'}, R^{3'}, R^{6'}, R^{7'}, R^{9'}, R^{10'}, R^{11'} and R^{15'} are all

5 independently selected from the same lists as previously defined for A, Y, Het, R², R³, R⁶, R⁷, R⁹, R¹⁰, R¹¹ and R¹⁵ respectively; na, nb, nc, nd, ne and nf are each independently 0 to 5 and the sum na + nb + nc + nd + ne + nf is 0 to 16.

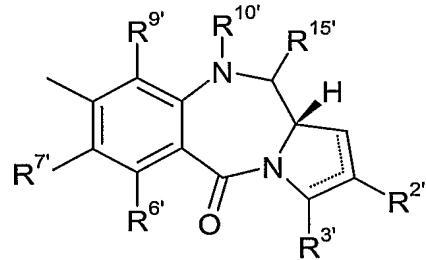
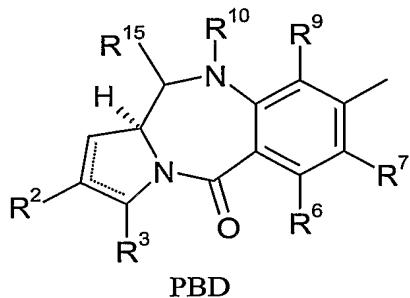
10 2. A compound according to claim 1, wherein the sums na + nb + nc and nd + ne + nf are equal.

3. A compound according to either claim 1 or claim 2, wherein Het and Het' are nitrogen containing heteroarylene units.

15 4. A compound of formula (II):



20 and salts, solvates, chemically protected forms, and prodrugs thereof, wherein



the bonds at the 8 position on PBD and PBD' bond to A and A' groups respectively;

25 the dotted lines indicate the optional presence of a double bond between C1 and C2 or C2 and C3;

R² and R³ are independently selected from -H, -OH, =O, =CH₂, -CN, -R, OR, halo, =CH-R, O-SO₂-R, CO₂R and COR;

R⁶, R⁷ and R⁹ are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, SH,

30 SR, NH₂, NHR, NRR', nitro, Me₃Sn and halo; where R and R' are

independently selected from optionally substituted C₁₋₇ alkyl, C₃₋₂₀ heterocyclyl and C₅₋₂₀ aryl groups; or

R⁶ and R⁷ together form a group -O-(CH₂)_p-O-, where p is 1 or 2; R¹⁰ is a nitrogen protecting group and R¹⁵ is either O-R¹¹, where

5 R¹¹ is a hydroxyl protecting group; or

R¹⁵ is OH, =O or =S; or

R¹⁰ and R¹⁵ together form a double bond between C10 and N11; A is selected from O, S, NH or a single bond; Y is a divalent group such that HY = R, or a single bond;

10 each Het is independently an amino-heteroarylene-carbonyl group; each L is independently selected from β-alanine, glycine, 4-aminobutanoic acid and a single bond; A', Y', R^{2'}, R^{3'}, R^{6'}, R^{7'}, R^{9'}, R^{10'}, R^{11'} and R^{15'} are all independently selected from the same lists as previously defined

15 for A, Y, Het, R², R³, R⁶, R⁷, R⁹, R¹⁰, R¹¹ and R¹⁵ respectively; ng is 1 to 5, nh is 1 to 5 and nj is 0 to 3

X and X' are either NH and C(=O) respectively or C(=O) and NH respectively.

20 5. A compound according to claim 4, wherein the total number of Het groups in the compound represented by the sum ng + (nj x nh)) is 1 to 3.

6. A compound according to either claim 4 or claim 5, wherein

25 Het are nitrogen containing heteroarylene units.

7. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein PBD and PBD' are the same.

30 8. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein R⁹ and R^{9'} are H.

9. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein R², R³, R^{2'} and R^{3'} are independently selected from R and

35 H.

10. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein R⁶ and R^{6'} are independently selected from H, OH, OR, SH, NH₂, nitro and halo.

5 11. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein R⁷ and R^{7'} are independently selected from H, OR, SH, SR, NH₂, NHR, NRR' and halo.

10 12. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein R¹⁰ and R¹⁵ together form a double bond between N10 and C11 and R^{10'} and R^{15'} together form a double bond between N10' and C11'.

15 13. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein R¹⁰ and R^{10'} are independently selected from H, BOC, Troc and alloc, and R¹¹ and R^{11'} are independently selected from OH, THP or a silyl oxygen protecting group.

20 14. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 13 for use in a method of therapy.

25 15. A pharmaceutical composition containing a compound of any one of claims 1 to 13, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

16. Use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 13 in the manufacture of a medicament for treating a proliferative disease.

30 17. A method of treatment of a proliferative disease, comprising administering to a subject in need of treatment a therapeutically-effective amount of a compound of any one of claims 1 to 13.